

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
James M. Slattery, #28,380

JMS/cqc  
0365-0525P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

Attachment: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Method according to claim 1[ or 2], characterized in that said relative water content measurement is carried out using a capacitive sensor.

4. (Amended) Method according to [any one of foregoing claims]claim 1, characterized in that changes in the results of water content measurement due to aging of the liquid are compensated for by virtue of using only the most recent data of the measurement history for the compensation for changes in the response of the measurement system.

5. (Amended) Method according to [any one of foregoing claims]claim 1, characterized in that the aging of said liquid, advantageously oil, is indicated on the basis of changes in the value of  $\epsilon_0$ .

6. (Amended) Method according to [any one of foregoing claims]claim 1, characterized in that, in the measurement of relative water content, an auxiliary medium is used for absorbing thereto the water contained in the liquid under measurement.

8. (Amended) Method according to claim 5[ or 6], characterized in that the water content of said auxiliary medium is determined by way of measuring its dielectric coefficient.

11. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 9[ or 10], characterized in that one electrode (6) of the sensor pair adapted to perform the measurement of dielectric coefficient also forms a part of the measurement electrode pair (1,6) adapted to perform the measurement of the relative water content.

14. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 12[ or 13], characterized in that the apparatus contains means adapted to measure the dielectric coefficient of said auxiliary medium whereupon the relative water content of said auxiliary medium can be determined.

(Rev. 11/13/01)